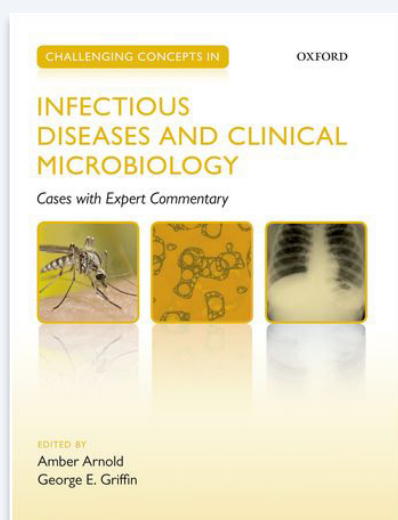


Challenging Concepts in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology

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Challenging Concepts in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology: Cases and Expert Commentary

Edited by

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The book is a part of the Challenging Concepts in series, with 11 titles so far. This is the first edition of this title. Editors are Dr Amber Arnold, Specialty Registrar in Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology, St George's Healthcare Trust, London and Professor George E Griffin, Professor of Infectious Diseases and Medicine; Honorary Consultant Physician, Clinical Infection Unit, St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, London.

The book has 361 pages; after Preface written by the editors, there is Content with 31 chapters, the list of

29 experts participating in the book, and the list of 30 contributors. Exhaustive list of abbreviations precedes the reference intervals of various laboratory findings.

The book is based on 31 case reports from the real practice, written by UK Specialty Trainee(s). Each case was then commented by an expert in the field. The cases described include bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic diseases. The title of the chapter (see below) alone mostly shows the main problem raised in the particular case report.

The case reports (in the same time the titles of the chapters) are: **Case 1** Pyrexia of unknown origin: the use of PET and PET-CT; **Case 2** Neurological complications of Lyme borreliosis; **Case 3** Leptospirosis and its complications; **Case 4** Secondary syphilis; **Case 5** HIV-associated multicentric Castelman's disease; **Case 6** HIV and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission; **Case 7** HIV: antiretroviral treatment and emergence of resistance; **Case 8** HIV: opportunistic infections and immune reconstitution; **Case 9** HIV: cryptococcal meningitis and timing of antiretroviral treatment; **Case 10** *Candida* infection in the intensive care unit; **Case 11** Disseminated aspergillosis after bone marrow transplantation; **Case 12** Hepatitis B reactivation; **Case 13** Developments in the treatment of hepatitis C virus infection; **Case 14** Management of viral haemorrhagic fevers in the UK; **Case 15** Tropical liver abscess: diagnosis and management; **Case 16** Severe *falciparum* malaria: treatment options in the UK; **Case 17** Imported *Plasmodium vivax*; **Case 18** Typhoid fever: treatment choices; **Case 19** Hospital-acquired *Legionella* pneumonia; **Case 20** Severe *Clostridium difficile* infection; **Case 21** Staphylococcal prosthetic joint infection; **Case 22** Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia; **Case 23** Pneumococcal meningitis: antibiotic options for resistant organisms; **Case 24** Urinary sepsis: vancomycin-resistant enterococci; **Case 25** Disseminated nocardiosis; **Case 26** Urinary sepsis: extended spectrum beta-lactamase-producing *E. coli*; **Case 27** Multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection in cystic fibrosis; **Case 28** The treatment of *Mycobacterium abscessus* lung disease; **Case 29** Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis; **Case 30** Diagnostic and management issues in tuberculous meningitis; **Case 31** Treated pulmonary tuberculosis complicated by sarcoidosis.

Case report is very detailed including all clinical laboratory and imaging data presented clearly in text, tables and in boxes. Furthermore, along the case report there are boxes with clinical tips for particular part of the patient workup, learning points with some additional systematic data, boxes called "Evidence base" where some evidence based work are cited and described, and "Expert comment" boxes where experts in the field comment some particular problems in a case development. At the end of each chapter there is a box with "A final word from the expert" where the expert comments about the disease and about the diagnostic and therapeutic approach to the patient in

this particular chapter and in general. The chapter ends with the 11-23 literature references. Each chapter is around 10-12 pages long. At the end of the book there is a comprehensive index (two columns on 12 pages).

To illustrate the style of the book, I will describe one of the chapters – **Case 14** Management of viral haemorrhagic fevers in the UK: The main text describes the case of Lassa fever (development of symptoms, history of disease, epidemiologic data, clinical course, all laboratory data in text and in table, infection control procedures and a discussion of the case at the end). Integrated in text are boxes in light blue and dark blue colour: four learning point boxes (VHFs are not at all same, with two detailed tables with different characteristics of different VHFs; Haemorrhage in Lassa virus infection is rare; VHF epidemiology; Person-to-person transmission); four clinical tip boxes (Differential diagnosis; Laboratory features and diagnosis; Contact surveillance and PEP; Predictors of severe disease); two Evidence base boxes (Lassa epidemiology; Ribavirin in Lassa); two figures (Risk assessment algorithm for viral haemorrhagic fevers in the UK; Lassa fever: Epidemiology in Africa); one additional box (Infection control), and five Expert comments (Clinical features of viral haemorrhagic fevers; General laboratory features in VHF; VHF risk assessment; Patient management; Neurologic consequences of Lassa fever). At the end of the chapter, after the Discussion section, there is a "A final word from the expert" with conclusion as well as recommendations about the patient and the disease.

The purpose of this book, according to the editors, is to serve as a source of information "...first and foremost to all specialty trainees in infection-based specialties as those in related specialties such as public health, genitourinary, emergency, acute and general medicine. Allied to this the aim has been to make this book stimulating, transferable, and accessible to all those with an interest in infection-based medicine so in that respect general practitioners, other health professionals, core medical trainees, and medical students should all find this text relevant".

Indeed, after I finished reading the book, I am more than convinced that it will be widely used, and we only can hope that more such comprehensive case reports will be published in the future.